



## **Col. Joseph R. Kurz**

### **Chief of Staff, 1st Theater Sustainment Command**

Col. Joseph R. Kurz currently serves as the chief of staff, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Central. Prior to joining First Team, Kurz served as the commander, Blue Grass Army Depot, Joint Munitions Command, from July 2018 through July 2020.

Kurz was raised in a military family and grew up in the Orlando, Florida area. He earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Central Florida, and master's degrees in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology, military art and science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and national resource strategy from National Defense University. Kurz's military education includes the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, the School of Advanced Military Studies, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Logistics Executive Development Course. He also completed the Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course and the Armor Officer Basic Course.

Kurz was commissioned in the Army in 1995 as second lieutenant. He initially served as a tank platoon leader, and later, as the support platoon leader, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor, and later, as the executive officer and accountable officer, Headquarters and A Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army in Germany. In 1999, he was assigned as the brigade maintenance manager, Division Material Management Center, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In 2001, he was assigned as the commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 703rd Main Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In 2004, he was assigned as the plans and liaison officer, 528th Special Operations Support Battalion (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, he served as the brigade plans officer, Special Operations Support Command (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2006, he served as the support operations officer, Special Operations Sustainment Brigade (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2007, he served as the group logistics officer (S-4), 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then the director of logistics (J-4), Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan. He then returned to Fort Bragg to serve as the executive officer, Group Support Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). In 2011, he served as the chief of strategic plans (J-5), Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan. He was then assigned as the commander, Group Support Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. In 2014, he served as a strategist, Commanding General's Initiatives Group, U.S. Army Materiel Command, at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and recently served as the branch head (Logistics, Deployment and Sustainment), Capability Development Division, Allied Command Transformation, North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Norfolk, Virginia.

Kurz's personal awards include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge and Parachute Rigger Badge.